

Application No.: 09/646,812

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A method for connection control in a radio communication system during calls from and to radio subscribers, said radio communication system comprising: a radio subsystem via which communications terminals which allow access by said radio subscribers can be connected in an associated radio area, and a switching center for switching through connections, comprising [the steps of]:

routing said connections between said radio subsystem and said switching center via a radio transmission unit, said [step of] routing comprising:

switching through[, for a case of a call within a radio area between radio subscribers within a same said radio area, or for a case of a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas, only] signaling connections, and not switching through traffic channel connections, from said radio transmission unit to said switching center when a call within a radio area is between radio subscribers within a same said radio area, [and]

switching through signaling connections, and not switching through traffic channel connections, from said radio transmission unit to said switching center when a call is between radio subscribers in different radio areas,

switching traffic channel connections by said radio transmission unit between a first radio subsystem and a second radio subsystem [for a case of a call within a radio area from said radio subsystem itself, or for a case of] when a call is between radio subscribers in different radio areas.

2. (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of: switching through only said signaling connections for a case of a call which relates to a radio subscriber and a subscriber of another communications system from said radio transmission unit to said switching center, and switching said traffic channel connections between said radio communications system and said other communications system by said radio transmission unit.

3. (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of: sending back control information from said switching center via a switched-through signaling connection, said radio subsystem or said radio transmission unit initiating said switching of traffic channel connections utilizing said control information.

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4 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the step of: sending an identifier to identify trunks which are in each case used for a call in said switching center back from said switching center via a switched-through signaling connection, said radio subsystem checking, utilizing said identifier, for a presence of a call within a radio area, and causing said switching of said traffic channel connections.

5 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting voice signals on said traffic channel connections.

6 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a satellite is used as said radio transmission unit.

7 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of: carrying out a transcoder and data rate adaptation function; switching said signaling connections and said traffic channel connections for an uplink transmission direction from said communications terminal to said radio subsystem taking place after said step of carrying out a transcoder and data rate adaptation function, and

switching said signaling connections and said traffic channel connection for a downlink transmission direction from said radio subsystem to said communications terminal taking place before said step of carrying out the transcoder and data rate adaptation function in a respective said radio subsystem.

8 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of: controlling said switching of said signaling connections and of said traffic channel connections in said respective radio subsystem by an interworking unit with a through-switching capability.

9 (Currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of: controlling said switching of said signaling connections to said switching center by an interworking unit with a through-switching capability.

10. (Currently amended) A radio communications system for connection control during calls from and to radio subscribers, comprising:  
communication terminals;

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a radio subsystem via which said communications terminals which allow access by the radio subscribers can be connected in an associated radio area;

a switching center for switching through connections;

a radio transmission unit which is arranged between said radio subsystem and said switching center and via which said connections are routed, said routing being implemented so that when a call within a radio area between radio subscribers within a same radio area, or when a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas [are] is made, [only] signaling connections, and not traffic channel connections, are switched through from said radio transmission unit to said switching center, and said routing being implemented so that traffic channel connections are switched by said radio transmission unit between a first radio subsystem and a second radio subsystem [when a call is made within a radio area from said first radio subsystem or] when a call is made between radio subscribers in different radio areas.

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